



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

Facilitator Newsletter, Fall 2009

*"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns."* ~ George Eliot

Autumn brings the end of summer, but the promise of a new year to awaken the joy of nature's wonder in children of all ages and those who teach them. May you have a tremendous start to this new school year with autumn's changes.

### **DNR Changes & Furlough Closures**

The current economic crisis has had a direct and negative impact on the state. As a result, the Project WILD, Project Learning Tree and Project WILD programs has been and will be impacted. Our bureau within the DNR has been reorganized into the Office of Communications. Also, with reduced work hours due to building closures and furloughs, our staff and the warehouse staff will have less time to process workshop orders.

We are asking facilitators to help us adjust and **allow much more time in planning and submitting workshop proposals**. Beginning immediately, we ask that you submit your proposals a minimum of **three weeks in advance** to help us meet your needs in the best manner possible. **Proposals or publication orders received less than three weeks in advance cannot be guaranteed on-time. We cannot place orders without proposals.** If you choose to fax your proposal, please contact Annie and let her know to look for it there.

Here are some helpful details as you schedule workshops:

### **Staff Schedules:**

Janet: Monday-Thursday  
Annie: Monday-Wednesday  
Chris (PLT): Every other week  
Amalia (WILD/WET): Tuesday-Thursday

### **DNR Office Closures:**

#### **2009**

- Monday, October 12
- Friday, November 27
- Monday, December 28

#### **2010**

- Monday, February 15
- Friday, May 28
- Monday, October 11
- Friday, November 26

#### **2011**

- Monday, December 27
- Monday, February 21
- Friday, May 27

### **Conference & Training Cancelled**

This year, Wisconsin PLT/WILD/WET offered a facilitator conference and two new facilitator trainings. Unfortunately, none of the events had enough participants register by the deadline to host the events.

### **Wisconsin PLT/WILD/WET Website gets a new look!**

In the next few months, we'll be rolling out some cool changes in the appearance and design of the PLT,WILD,WET Website. We hope you like them. Some new features include:

- New PLT,WILD,WET [homepage](#).
- A photo slideshow of PLT, WILD & WET workshops on the [Facilitator Niche Page](#). Send us photos of people and activities from your workshops and perhaps you will see it appear on the Facilitator Slideshow.
- Dropdown menus for publications and forms on the [Facilitator Niche page](#). If you have any questions on how to use the new features, please give us a call.
- Less scrolling! All the information you need will be on one page, categorized and easy to find.

Keep an eye out for the new website updates and we look forward to hearing your feedback.

### **Project WILD**

Project WILD has issued a new resource, entitled *Growing Up WILD*, an early childhood activity guide. The Council for Environmental Education has decided to sell these guides, but in many cases, states who adopt the program are still delivering training. Due to limited resources, Wisconsin Project WILD will not be taking on this new program at this time. Requests for orders can be directed to the [Growing up WILD website](#).

Wisconsin Project WILD staff applied for and received a grant from the Council for Environmental Education to survey your needs on training and professional development. We plan to conduct some surveys with you about your training needs and your professional goals as a facilitator. We want to ensure you are well trained and serving in a role that best suits your needs and professional growth.

### **Taking Action**

We have a small supply of the action-project guide entitled Taking Action remaining. Please contact Annie Kalson, [dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov), to order these for your workshops.

### **PLT**

**Wanted: Facilitators who can use the PLT Introductory Handbook.** These are no longer being used by national PLT and we would like to distribute the last remaining copies. Let us know if you want these with your secondary workshops and we'll gladly provide them to you. These would be great for pre-service introduction to PLT's secondary program.

### **PLT is now on Facebook!**

Join your fellow educators and friends and become part of the growing online community of PLT'ers on Facebook!

**GreenWorks Grants.** Wisconsin receives two PLT grants for service projects (link to press release). **McFarland School District**, McFarland, "Going Native": Middle and high school students are helping to restore the native habitat of the McFarland School Forest. They will remove invasive species and plant native plants and seeds. **Slinger Elementary School**, Slinger School District, "Growing Together": This project pairs fourth-and fifth-graders with high school students and with residents of Autumn Oaks, an assisted living facility. They will plant a garden, with the produce going to Autumn Oaks. The next grant deadline is **October 31, 2009**. Please help promote this funding opportunity for action projects in your PLT workshops.

### **Project WET**

Starting this fall, each participant who attends a WET workshop will receive both a guide and a CD. The CD contains printable student work sheets as well as Spanish versions of the student handouts. As you conduct your workshops, please ensure that everyone receives one of each.

### **Fall Workshops**

October 21-24. **Keeping the EE in GREEN: To Learn, To Live, To Act.** Eau Claire. WAEE is excited to venture to the Chippewa Valley for the annual conference. Located in the rolling hills and river valleys of western Wisconsin, Eau Claire will be the perfect location to enjoy the fall color change while networking with other

professionals in the field of environmental education. The 2009 theme: Keeping the EE in GREEN, will include sessions, workshops, and speakers concentrating on how to find resources and teach "green" initiatives, how to model and promote "green" behavior, and how to make your homes, nature centers and classrooms "green". The conference will also include nightly entertainment and the annual awards dinner and auction. Add this unique experience to your calendars now. Contact [Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education](#), 715-346-2796, or e-mail [WAEE](#).

October 22. [Project Learning Tree Workshop. WAEE Conference](#), Ramada Convention Center, Eau Claire. This award-winning environmental education activity guide (PreK-8) offers 96 activities covering the themes of Diversity, Interrelationships, Systems, Structure and Scale, and Patterns of Change. The activities are about forestry as well as the total environment: land, air, water. The PreK-8 activity guide uses forests as a "Window to the World" to help children learn how to think, not what to think. You will learn about Wisconsin's natural resources, complete teaching activities, and discover other resource materials to share with your students. Correlations to Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards will be provided. Instructor: Christopher Tall. To register, go to the WAEE Conference page or call WAEE at 715-346-2796.

October 29. **Climate Change in Wisconsin - Classroom Activities**. Hosted by the [WEAC Annual Conference](#), Midwest Express Center, Milwaukee. 2:30pm-3:45pm (Room 103B). Get free classroom materials and try out some of the activities from the new 2009 Climate Change: a Wisconsin Activity Guide. This session, led by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will get you active and allow you to experience several activities. Climate change not only addresses a timely and critical issue, but also allows interdisciplinary exploration of our world through scientific, social and governmental, artistic and economic concepts. This climate change guide is generally geared toward 7-12th grade and includes activities that are appropriate for science, social studies, math, art education and language arts as well as environmental education. Workshop Presenters: Mary Hamel & Christal Campbell. Visit the [WEAC Annual conference web pages](#), for workshop times and to register.

October 29. [WET/WILD/PLT Informational Session](#). Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee. Are you wild about wildlife, wowed by water, and fascinated by forests? Come learn how to bring the environment into your lesson plans using the national environmental education programs Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree. In this informational session, you'll be introduced to the three different activity guides, discover how program activities can be selected for specific grade levels or subjects, and experience an exciting activity from each program. No matter what subject or grade you teach, these teacher-tested programs will enhance and diversify your teaching while meeting academic standards and helping students connect with the outdoor world. We hope to inspire you to attend a Project WILD, Project WET, or Project Learning Tree workshop in the future and bring nature into your classroom. All participants receive one free environmental poster! This workshop is part of the [Wisconsin Education Association Council \(WEAC\) conference](#), visit their website for details.

November 5. [WET/WILD/PLT Informational Session](#). Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Are you wild about wildlife, wowed by water, and fascinated by forests? Come learn how to share your passion for the environment using the national environmental education programs Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree. In this informational session, you'll be introduced to the three different activity guides, learn how the activities in each can be tailored to your audience, discover how the activities can be targeted at specific age groups or topics, and experience an exciting activity from each program. We hope to inspire you to attend a workshop and bring new ideas into your recreation programs. This workshop is part of the [Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association's](#) Forever Young Conference. For details or to register, visit their website.

November 13-14. [Project Learning Tree & LEAF Workshop](#). Paper Discover Center, Appleton. Here's your chance to get the award winning Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide AND Wisconsin's LEAF lesson guide in one workshop. If you are interested in helping K-12 students understand the incredible value of forests, this classroom-based workshop is for you. The workshop teaches key principles, activities, and techniques to easily integrate environmental education into your classroom. Instructor: Jeremy Solin. Cost is \$40 - To register, go to the LEAF Website and fill out a registration form. For questions about the workshop, please contact LEAF at [leaf@uwsp.edu](mailto:leaf@uwsp.edu) or call 715-346-4956.

## **Program Connections**

**Budget Legislation Benefits EE in Wisconsin.** Funding for the DPI Environmental Education Consultant position and WEEB's General Environmental Education Grants included in 2009-2011 state budget. The budget legislation also increases the surcharge on environmental fines and WEEB's share of this funding. Once fully

implemented, WEEB's income for general environmental education grants will increase from an annual average of \$90,000 per year to \$252,000 per year. Both of these initiatives were top priorities for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation (WEEF) and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education.

**Sustain Our Lakes Program Grants.** The Sustain Our Great Lakes Program invites proposals for competitive funding through its Community Grants Program. The purpose of the Community Grants Program is to support community organizations, state and local governments, and others working at the local level to protect and improve watershed health in the Great Lakes basin while building local stewardship capacity. The program supports habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and watershed planning and management. ***Projects that include an education, training or community outreach component linked to restoration activities are encouraged.*** Please consider applying for Project WET training that focuses on the Great Lakes to compliment any project. Nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, tribes, and educational institutions are eligible for funding. Visit this link for more information: [Community Grants Program](#).

#### [Researchers Work to Protect Wisconsin Bats against Deadly Disease](#)

The [Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Network](#) is joining the WAEE conference in Eau Claire.

#### [Wisconsin's Emerald Ash Borer Information Source](#)

[Tree planting for Polar Bears](#) on DNR Forestry web site

[Wisconsin Urban Forestry Insider](#) stays in touch with topics important to our state.

[Target Field Trip Grants](#)

[World Water Monitoring Day](#)

[National Public Lands Day website](#)

[WDNR 2010 Urban Forestry Grants - Apply through October 5, 2009](#)

[Updated brochure offers "A Look at Wisconsin's Forests"](#)

*Have a great autumn!*

*The PLT/WILD/WET Team,*

#### **Janet Hutchens**

State Coordinator

[Janet.Hutchens@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Janet.Hutchens@wisconsin.gov)

(608) 261-8453

#### **Christopher Tall**

Assistant PLT Coordinator

[christopher.tall@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christopher.tall@wisconsin.gov)

(608) 267-0495

#### **Amalia Baldwin**

Assistant Project WET/WILD Coordinator

[amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:amalia.baldwin@wisconsin.gov)

(608) 264-8930

**Annie Kalson**

Program Assistant

[dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov)

(608) 264-6280

***Wisconsin Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, Project WET***

WI Department of Natural Resources

101 S. Webster Madison, WI 53707-7921

(608) 264-6280

Fax (608) 264-6293

**e-mail:** [dnrpltwildwet@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrpltwildwet@Wisconsin.gov)

**Web:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/>